

## Dr. Gero Gaevernitz, 68, OSS Figure

Dr. Gero von Schulze Gaevernitz, 68, a former member of the Office of Strategic Services and Swiss Mission, and a close associate of the late Allen Dulles during World War II, died April 6 in the Canary Islands.

As deputy to Mr. Dulles, who was then U.S. intelligence chief in Switzerland, Dr. Gaevernitz played an important role in "Operation Sunrise," which led to the surrender of a million men in the German forces in Italy and southern Austria on May 2, 1945.

Born in Freiberg, Germany, Dr. Gaevernitz became a naturalized American citizen but remained in Switzerland because of business and family holdings.

He had developed connections with members of the underground opposition to Hitler and after the outbreak of World War II, while America was still neu-

tral, had traveled extensively between Switzerland and Germany.

It was through these connections that he was able to arrange and participate in the conferences that led to the signing of the terms of surrender at Caserta, Italy.

Dr. Gaevernitz was awarded the U.S. Medal of Freedom for his part in the meetings. His citation read in part: "His vigilance, tact

and powers of persuasion contributed greatly to the successful outcome of the surrender negotiations."

The late Gen. William J. Donovan, then chief of OSS, wrote that Dr. Gaevernitz's part in the surrender and his knowledge of resistance to Hitler in Germany were "only a few of your achievements."

Field Marshal Harold Alexander, supreme allied commander in the Mediter-

anean in 1945, credited Mr. Dulles and Dr. Gaevernitz with helping to bring about the surrender "which not only started the collapse of the Nazis in Europe, but also saved untold Allied soldiers' lives."

Dr. Gaevernitz was buried in Lugano, Switzerland. He is survived by two sisters, Ruth v. S. Gaevernitz, of Freiberg, and Marga v. S. Gaevernitz, of Ascona, Switzerland.